Communication Platforms for
DATA COLLECTION & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Handout by Ana Councell

When looking at online platforms to make virtual evaluation possible, it is important to consider the types of activities that you will need to do. These include interviews, surveys, collaboration, and planning sessions. Below are some communication platforms for data collection and stakeholder engagement.

ALL-IN-ONE PLATFORMS

Whether you're looking to hold virtual stakeholder meetings, conduct video interviews, or brainstorm on a whiteboard, these platforms are great choices for a one-stop shop.

	Price	Video calling	Instant Chat	Whiteboard	End-to-end encryption
GoToMeeting gotomeeting.com	$12/ Month	✓	✓		✓
Microsoft Teams teams.microsoft.com	Free with 365	✓	✓	✓	✓
G Suite gsuite.google.com	$6 / Month	✓	✓	✓	✓
ZOHO zoho.com/remotely	Free till July '20	✓	✓	✓	✓

VIRTUAL MEETINGS / INTERVIEWS

When considering one-on-one interviews or group planning meetings, video and audio calls are the new reality.

Google Hangouts
hangouts.google.com

As part of G Suite, Hangouts is ideal for groups with fewer than 25 participants.

Powered by ZOOM
zoom.us

Never underestimate the power of a fun background. Just remember to keep meetings short with the free version.

ZOHO
zoho.com/meeting

One-on-one meetings are included in the free program, but the paid version can allow up to 20 hosts and 100 participants.

SURVEYS

If you're not already using an online survey platform, these are some free, easy-to-use options.

Google FORMS
docs.google.com

Great for current users of G Suite. Potential for storage limitations with the free version.

Typeform
typeform.com

Though a free version exists, the paid platform offers design and layout options that allow you to really personalize the experience.

SurveyMonkey®
surveymonkey.com

Free version offers stock templates with limited customization. For more bang, pay the buck and buy the full features.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Brainstorming, collaborative decision making, and design visioning with remote teams are all easier with virtual whiteboards.

miro
miro.com

3 free "endless" boards included in the free membership. The interface makes real-time collaboration fun and engaging.

MURAL
mural.co

Lots of templates to customize your idea boards. A free trial allows you to try before you buy.
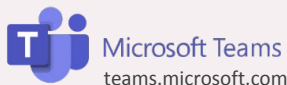
sketchboard
sketchboard.io

Great option for users of the all-inclusive G Suite. Offers over 400 sketch shapes.

SHARED DOCUMENT CREATION

Setting up a standing shared folder is a great way to share evaluation reports, logic models, and data collection instruments with collaborators.

Google Drive
drive.google.com

With a gmail.com email address anyone can create, share, and collaborate in Google Docs or Microsoft Office documents.

Microsoft Teams
teams.microsoft.com

The ability to chat and edit a document simultaneously outweighs the confusing file structures.

ZOHO
zoho.com

File version tracking, a chat feature, and integration with G suite, Office 365, and Slack make Zoho a game changer.